

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 01649 041709Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PC-01

DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /083 W

-----087265 041722Z /46

O P 041330Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9042

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 371

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1649

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, US

SUBJ: US-CAE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 1635, BANGUI 1636

1. TWO INTEMPERATE AND TENDENTIOUS DIPLOMATIC NOTES REPORTED REFTELS ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE CAE. BOTH WERE DRAFTED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE, IN ALL PROBABILITY ON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM BOKASSA. THEY MAY REPRESENT A PARTIAL CAE RESPONSE TO MY PRESENTATION TO BOKASSA AUGUST 1. IN RELATION TO BOTH INCIDENTS (OVERFLIGHT AND MAHER DETENTION) PRESUMPTION IS MADE OF HOSTILE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTS ON OUR PART. INCIDENTS ARE BLOWN UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION AND MADE MAJOR ISSUES IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BOTH NOTES, HOWEVER, DO TAKE NOTE OF OUR DESIRE FOR CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND CLOSE WITH THE ADMONITION NOT TO LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. THEY ARE THUS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO PUT TWO SUBJECTS TO REST, TO ACCEPT OUR INVOLVEMENT IN INCIDENTS AS INDIVIDUAL ABERRATIONS WHICH IF REPEATED WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FROM CAE SIDE. (IN THIS SENSE THE TWO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGUI 01649 041709Z

INCIDENTS DIFFER GREATLY FROM THE ISSUE OF THE DETENTION OF THE TWO JOURNALISTS, WHICH IS ONLY ONE FACET OF THE LARGER AND CONTINUING PROBLEM OF BOKASSA'S RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN PRESS IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE CORONATION.)

2. WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT LET THE TWO NOTES GO WITHOUT RESPONSE. HOWEVER, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE A MEASURED ONE DESIGNED TO SET

RECORD STRAIGHT BUT ALSO TO AVOID FURTHER ESCALATION. THE SITUATIONS WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE TWO NOTES ARE QUITE DIFFERENT AND MERIT DIFFERENT RESPONSES: CONCILIATORY IN THE CASE OF THE OVER-FLIGHT QUESTION, TOUGHER ON THE QUESTION OF MAHER'S DETENTION.

3. OVERFLIGHT: FACT IS WE DID ENCOURAGE THE BRITISH TO COME AHEAD WITHOUT FLIGHT CLEARANCE, AS THIS HAD BEEN OCCASIONAL PRACTICE IN THE PAST. IN OUR RESPONSE TO THE NOTE WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD REGRET THAT A SITUATION AROSE WHICH LED TO AN UNAUTHORIZED OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CAE. WE SHOULD STATE THAT THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION WAS TO FACILITATE THE ARRIVAL OF A CONSUL WHO COULD REPRESENT MR. GOLDSMITH, A JOURNALIST WORKING FOR AN AMERICAN PRESS AGENCY. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE CHARGE TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 24 THAT THE EMBASSY DID NOT RPT NOT ASSURE HMG THAT ALTHOUGH AUTHORIZATION HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN, THE AIRCRAFT COULD ENTER THE CAE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. WE MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT THAT THE BRITISH CONSUL TOLD THE EMBASSY ON HIS ARRIVAL THAT HE KNEW THAT HE WAS ARRIVING WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION AND THAT HE HAD BEEN PREPARED TO TURN BACK IF THE TOWER HAD REFUSED OVERFLIGHT/LANDING CLEARANCE. WE SHOULD CLOSE WITH RESTATEMENT OF OUR POLICY TO RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CAE AND OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE CAE ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

4. MAHER DETENTION: IN RESPONSE TO MAHER NOTE WE MUST TAKE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGUI 01649 041709Z

STRONG EXCEPTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF ESPIONAGE AND REITERATE POINT WHICH I MADE TO EMPEROR THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT INTERFERED IN CAE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE SHOULD ALSO INDICATE OUR CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO PCVS TO OBSERVE ALL LAWS OF THE COUNTRY. WE WOULD PROPOSE SPECIFICALLY TO REPLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. WE STATED IN OUR INITIAL PRESENTATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE SUBJECT OF MAHER'S DETENTION THAT WHILE WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT QUESTIONS HE ASKED AT THE EMPEROR'S PALACE AT KOLONGO, WE WERE CERTAIN THAT HE DID NOT MEAN TO BE INDISCREET. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT HE IN FACT ONLY ASKED ONE QUESTION OF THE GUARDS OUTSIDE THE PALACE, QTE WHAT IS THIS? UNQTE, AFTER WHICH HE WAS ARRESTED AND TAKEN WITHIN THE GROUNDS.

B. WE WISH TO REITERATE THAT NO DISRESPECT TOWARD THE EMPEROR WAS INTENDED BY MR. MAHER. ALL PCVS, WHO ARE IN THE CAE AT THE INVITATION OF THE CAE GOVERNMENT, HAVE BEEN REMINDED OF THE NEED TO RESPECT FULLY ALL LAWS OF THE CAE AND TO AVOID ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS SHOWING LACK OF COURTESY TOWARDS THE HEAD OF STATE.

C. WE MUST, HOWEVER, DENY MOST FORCEFULLY THE ALLEGATION THAT MR. MAHER WAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE. AS THE MINISTRY POINTED OUT IN ITS NOTE, SUCH ACTIVITY WOULD BE TOTALLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE PEACE CORPS. THE USG DOES NOT INTERFERE IN THE

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CAE.

D. WE SHARE THE MINISTRY'S VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING EFFECTIVELY TO CREATE A SINCERE AND FRANK FRIENDSHIP AND A PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION FREE OF SUSPICION, AND WE EXPECT THAT THE GOCAE WILL WORK IN THIS SENSE AS WELL.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REPLIES.
QUAINTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DETENTION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGUI01649
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0992
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770898/aaaadfnp.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fdb3fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGUI 1635, 77 BANGUI 1636
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1713754
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-CAE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fdb3fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009